



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Stephen P. Sinnott, Acting United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Michael G. Abear, DOB: 12/25/71, of Racine, Wisconsin, was sentenced late yesterday afternoon to 11 years and 8 months in federal prison without parole. Abear previously pleaded guilty to possessing cocaine with the intent to distribute.

Abear was originally from Winter, Wisconsin, in Sawyer County. The government's proof established that Abear was a major cocaine source in northwestern Wisconsin from at least December 1993 until his arrest on February 7, 2005. Chief Judge Barbara B. Crabb found that Abear was responsible for distributing approximately 13 kilograms of cocaine during that time period. He was arrested during an undercover operation on February 7 at which he was prepared to provide one kilogram of cocaine in exchange for \$25,000. Abear was arrested by law enforcement officers as he began counting the money. In sentencing Abear, Chief Judge Crabb found that the large amount of cocaine he dealt, along with his criminal record, clearly established that he was a "menace to society."

Acting United States Attorney Sinnott stated that the Abear sentencing was a result of an investigation conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of

Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau, and the Sawyer County Sheriff's Department.

Prosecution of this case has been handled by Assistant United States

Attorney John W. Vaudreuil.

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